

# BREED COLUMNS



Edited by [Arliss Paddock](#)



*In this month's Saluki Club of America column Brian Patrick Duggan asks, "Where will your doggy objets d'art go when you're gone?" Brian offers tips on how to keep treasures, like this rare Joan Ludwig print, from ending up in the recycling bin.*

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

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## HOUND GROUP

hallmarks of a successful hunt.

Imperative to breed preservation is making sure our PBGVs retain their instinctive ability to hunt. It is truly an amazing sight to see the light bulb turn on when a young PBGV first participates in a pursuit on a hot rabbit trail. You are witnessing hundreds of years of genetic instinct waking up, turning on, and clicking into place ... and it is beautiful.

Watching the dogs hunt is also an incredible educational experience for breeders. Seeing the hounds search, move, and pursue helps a breeder visualize the standard and understand the reason for certain points described as ideal conformation.

In February I had the extreme pleasure of watching my girls work together to create what had to be the most perfect five minutes of hunting I'll ever witness. Our 3-year-old worked a quadrant tirelessly and flushed a rabbit

from a thick cover of grass and moved it toward me up a mowed lane, giving voice as she pursued and was joined by our other two young girls, who made every check until they were well out of sight. A few minutes later, they were back with tails wagging and tongues hanging.

I'm not sure who had bigger smiles on their faces—the dogs, or those of us lucky enough to witness. (And no worries, rabbits are very, very fast and outrun the fastest of our hounds.)

Special thanks to my sister-in-law Sarah Murray, who was quick thinking and managed to capture pictures of the whole thing.

More information about upcoming hunts can be found on [pbgv.org](http://pbgv.org) under the Events Calendar. —  
Tiffany Cannon, President, PBGVCA

—Susan Smyth, PBGVCA  
Column Chair,  
[Oldyork2002@aol.com](mailto:Oldyork2002@aol.com)  
**Petit Basset Griffon  
Vendéen Club of America**

## Salukis

### WHERE WILL YOUR DOGGY OBJETS D'ART GO WHEN YOU'RE GONE?

The greatest loss of early Saluki history happened in 1946 when relatives of the Honorable Florence Amherst, our breed's founder in the West, threw out her 50-year collection of photographs, pedigrees, research, letters, and print material after her death.

The question of what Wendy and I should do with our Saluki art and artifacts has been much on my mind. We'd like to think they'd be valued by particular people or institutions, but there are no guarantees without homework, agreements, and a *legal document*.

I've been wisely advised the first step in planning a gift, donation, or bequest is to ask your intended beneficiary if they want the item(s) to enhance their collection. If yes, wonderful. Next, share this information with family and close friends so nobody is surprised when

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*Artistic imagining of Florence Amherst's last year, with her beloved Saluki photographs on every wall. (Image courtesy of Séan Duggan, created with MidJourney AI and Adobe Photoshop.)*

the time comes.

Lastly, you'll want to have this specifically recorded in your legal will with as much detail about the item (precise description, size, weight, artist, date of creation, nationality, dealer, purchase price, current estimated value, provenance—everything you know about the piece). It's important to have receipts close at hand or even with the piece rather than buried in a file. Why? So your non-doggy executor and relatives don't have

to puzzle out just which "Saluki statue" you meant ...

Also, know that if you gift the item *before* your demise, it doesn't have to be in the will, but documentation is always good idea. I'll also note that others usually won't want breed trophies, ribbons, and chotchkies, even though you valued them. Consider recycling these with your breed club.

And about donations to clubs, unless you gift something while you're alive or if it's not specified in your

will, the item legally belongs to your estate. The executor *may* confer with your designated heirs about releasing possessions to an organization (who would have to arrange transport and storage), but the club shouldn't count the thing as theirs just because you once said it was going to them—and they aren't legally responsible for unsolicited gifts.

Don't assume your family will know best what to do with your Saluki stuff. In Florence Amherst's sad story, she had no husband or children, and her relatives regarded her as a kindly eccentric aunt with a lot of dogs. Even though the English Saluki Club was two decades old, and her surviving sisters knew she was Honorary President, nobody offered her historical collection to either the breed club or the Kennel Club archives.

### **What about donating my treasures to a museum?**

That's a possibility, but you should ask their curator

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or director if their museum desires the piece (you may need to allocate estate funds for shipping and insurance). As before, when there is an agreement, let your friends and family know and thoroughly document the piece in both the museum agreement and your legal will or trust.

For instance, the Smithsonian is our nation's "attic" and accepts all manner of objects, but the AKC Museum of the Dog is a fine art institution on an international stage. The MOD is not a "hall of fame" for breeders, kennels, or specific dogs. With the expansion of recognized breeds and dog events, it's impossible to handle ribbons, trophies, and so on. So, Lalique figurines, Best of Breed pewter trays, and Champion Missy's whelping box aren't going to pass muster.

Alan Fausel, the MOD's Curator, tells me that monetary donations are generally more important to a museum than a piece of breed art. Cash helps with conservation, display, staff-

ing, storage, facilities, and the myriad behind-the-scenes details needed to operate a world-class museum.

To recap, these are the key steps to finding homes for your prized artwork:

- Ask if they want it
- Share that information
- Legally document

For myself, I've had to dispose of possessions for several deceased relatives and close friends. It's never easy. I'm now liking the concept of "Swedish death cleaning," which amounts to sorting out or allocating our treasures while we're alive and able. In this way, our heirs won't have a Saluki artifact jumble to figure out, give to a charity shop—or just chuck in the dumpster ...

—Brian Patrick Duggan,  
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There is so much that goes into this decision. I believe that all of us who have had Deerhounds have come to love the breed so deeply because of the incredible temperaments they can have, and what we see as their rugged beauty. Each of us who has fallen in love with our dogs winds up contemplating at some point whether our dogs should be bred. We tend to see all the good points of our dogs and become convinced that they are really worthy. And yes, they *are* very worthy—of our love, of our admiration, and of our devotion. But does that mean they are worthy of being bred? That's the hard question.

We've come to love our individual Deerhounds, and we've come to love our breed. Intertwined with loving our breed comes the desire to preserve the best qualities of our Deerhounds. When we look at it this way, we need to look at what qualities define our breed, and hopefully that brings us face to face with our

## Scottish Deerhounds BREEDING DECISIONS

**L**ots of us Deerhounds are faced with breeding decisions. First of all, should we even breed?

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ifying hound (90%, 75%, or 50%) will require more hunts per year to obtain a RHX10 title.

Obstacles to obtaining the RHX10 title:

1. Finding the time to enter hunt test events each year.
2. The hound being able to qualify consistently.
3. The hound aging out. (At best, we can expect our PBGV to be able to hunt for 13 years.)
4. Hound health (sickness, female in season, injury, and so on).
5. Hunting conditions: rabbit population, field conditions (wet, dry, windy, heavy cover).

It becomes obvious that obtaining a title of RHX at the higher levels is not an easy task. Since the RHX titles became possible in 2014, there have only been two hounds who accomplished obtaining RHX10 titles (see chart on p. 64 for other RHX numbers).

In conclusion: To obtain a RHX10 title, start early; train hard; enter as many

hunt events as possible; if necessary, pick and choose events (some event locations consistently have better rabbit populations); pack up with experienced hounds; have a high qualifying rate; and hope your hound stays in good health and does not age out before the RHX10 title is earned.

We should recognize the two PBGVs who have been able to achieve RHX10 titles. The first hound to reach this milestone was Ch. PACH2 Pacar's Baron Von Richthofen, RE, NA, NAJ, MXP9, MXPG, MJP13, MJPB2, PAX2, T2BP, PCMH (Red), in January 2021, owned by Paul and Carole Urban and handled by Paul Urban, when he was 12 years old.

The second hound to reach this milestone was Ch. Douglan's Creme Caramel at Joeley, BN, RN, NJP, PCMH, CGC (Cooper), owned and handled by Vickie Willmann, in February 2024, when he was 12 years old. Cooper has also reached the next

milestone of RHX11 in April 2024 and is still going strong. Wow!—*Paul Urban*  
Thank you, Paul.

—Susan Smyth, PBGVCA Column Chair,  
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Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America

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## Salukis

### WHAT DOG CLUBS USED TO DO ...

From the Saluki Club of Greater San Francisco and San Angeles Saluki Club newsletters, here's a sampling of club life some *five decades before* the internet, smartphones, or home computers ...

Meetings were held at someone's home in the SF Bay Area every other month (and *telegrams* were sometimes needed to notify members). Notices emphasized fun—"superb partying"—but with business getting done.

After shows, "dinner and drinks" happened frequently at restaurants. For one evening meeting at a country

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Left (top): The American Saluki Association's "Arabian Dinner," hosted by Saluki fancier and art patron Cynthia Woods, 1968; below, San Angeles Saluki Club's restaurant dinner/meeting, with demonstration by a "thought-reading" animal analyst, 1970.



home far from the road, members brought flashlights for the dark walk back to the cars. Open houses during the Christmas season were much anticipated, and

once at a member's house, two hungry Salukis wiggled through a camper-shell window to get the brought-along, cooked turkey—leaving mostly

bones to be served on the platter (with fortunately still just enough meat for guests).

Meetings often had guest lecturers (sometimes that day's judge), and topics included the breed standard, hip dysplasia, anesthesia in sighthounds, the newly-born sport of lure coursing (see "That Whizzing Contraption," *AKC Family Dog* Sept./Oct. 2024), first aid, and the innovative method of mending broken bones with steel plates (in 1973, only three vets in Los Angeles were doing this).

Slides and 16mm movies were often shown, and at one annual dinner, a "professional animal analyst" used telepathy to read the thoughts of members' dogs.

COURTESY BRIAN PATRICK DUGGAN



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Ingenious about raising funds, SCGSF members would get space at a flea market to sell their “trash and treasures” to benefit the club. They secured a running newsletter ad from a hotel/restaurant featuring dinner entertainment.

Dinner meetings often included an auction, raffle, and a “grab bag”—all in one night. In 1981, aluminum cans were collected at matches and meetings and cashed in for the bank account. Shoppers could get Blue Chip stamps from store purchases (a very early form of customer rewards), so the San Angeles club got members to donate accumulated stamps to be redeemed for merchandise intended for trophies.

Newsletters (sometimes just two mimeographed pages) were generally the only way to learn about show results—but someone had to go and mark catalogs, type up the results, and mail them to the editor. We now take photographs of dogs as a given, but in 1971, the

SASC was having serious discussions on how they could include photos in their simple newsletter.

Ages before social media, clubs subscribed to other breed clubs’ newsletters (domestic and foreign), and these would be shared around at meetings so members could learn what was going on in other Saluki circles. The SASC unanimously established a lending library of Saluki books, selected magazines, and top-notch veterinary medicine textbooks. During the 1974 oil crisis, they also connected people wanting to carpool to shows and split gas costs.

There were fun days with Puppy Clinics, where young Salukis (up to 18 months) were evaluated by a round-robin panel—everyone brought a prize, and everyone left with a prize.

To round out their activities, the SASC had an annual, nine-inning baseball game against the “WYPACI Animals” (possibly another dog club?), where there were

no dogs, no show chat, and no sniping.

The SASC had some amazingly inventive ideas, such as trying to lease a few acres of private land for a safe Saluki running area (the club would pay for fencing). Taking preventative measures against escaped Salukis, they sent posters to pet shops, vet offices, and shelters. One member even paid the local animal shelter five dollars to be notified if one was ever turned in (the SASC voted to reimburse him). And in case a Saluki ever went missing, the club maintained a “lost dog” file on index cards containing descriptions of members’ hounds.

And perhaps most astonishingly, in their 1972 quest for a match and lure coursing site, the SASC once considered a well-known Catholic school’s football field, the Santa Barbara Polo Field, or, get this ... Disneyland!

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Saluki Club of America

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ages of onset, stereotypic behaviors, or clinical signs. If the records are incomplete, Dr. Muñana will contact the clinician who diagnosed the dog. This information will help owners of newly diagnosed PBGVs to understand what the future holds.

### ***Do the PBGVs with idiopathic epilepsy have similar clinical signs?***

A second survey will go out to those owners who have had PBGVs with seizures.

### ***Does idiopathic epilepsy run in specific lines of PBGVs?***

It is hypothesized that there is a genetic component to the onset of seizures in a PBGV. The genetics are likely to be complex, however, and development of idiopathic epilepsy may be influenced by the environment. Dr. Muñana will collect pedigrees of all affected PBGVs with the hopes of uncovering evidence of the mode of inheritance.

Dr. Muñana or a member of her team will also ask own-

ers to submit a blood sample from dogs with idiopathic epilepsy. These samples will be banked for future studies. In a future phase of her investigation, she should be able to address the following question:

### ***Can a PBGV-specific marker for idiopathic epilepsy be discovered so that susceptible PBGVs can be identified prior to breeding?***

Wow! Wouldn't that be wonderful? It could happen, but this last step of the investigation rides on the success of the first steps. We are counting on owners of affected dogs to participate in the surveys. We know that they are motivated to glean more information on this awful disease.

We ask everyone in the PBGV community to please answer the survey. The future of our beloved hounds depends upon the health initiatives that we embrace today. —Laura Liscum, Ph.D.

Thank you, Laura.  
—Susan Smyth, PBGVCA

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Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America

### **Salukis**

*T*he following is to be read as in the form of a standard theatrical script ...

### **“JUST TELL ME WHAT’S CORRECT!”**

A play in one act  
by  
Brian Patrick Duggan

Characters:  
Ms. AMHERST  
venerable Saluki expert  
Mr. SMITH  
a prospective Saluki judge

SCENE: *A seminar room at the Saluki Club of America national specialty.*

AT CURTAIN RISE: *We see two people lingering to talk as the other attendees are leaving.*

SMITH  
A very good presentation, Ms. Amherst—but I still

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Red and grizzle feathered Salukis showing different characteristics.

have a big question. Your standard's a bit vague, don't you think?

### AMHERST

“Vague” isn’t really the right term. We consider the standard to be “inclusive.” Because of indigenous Salukis’ wide geographic range, there are many types found across an area of approximately four million square miles. That’s larger

than the United States!

### SMITH

Yes, I do understand the range—all the way from Western Egypt through Persia—but I’m used to specifics in standards. Can’t you just tell me what’s correct?

### AMHERST

I’m sorry, but no can do. Salukis aren’t a cookie-

cutter breed. Proportions can be degrees of square, from slightly taller than long to slightly longer than tall.

*(makes shapes with index fingers)*

Now, within those forms, there are definitely preferred structural shapes. And they come in a rainbow of colors and coat types.

### SMITH

Okay—their coats. Aren’t feathered Salukis more correct than smooths?

### AMHERST

Both have the same status. In fact, since the smooth coat is genetically dominant, it’s highly likely that smooth Salukis evolved first.

### SMITH

Fair enough. But why doesn’t your standard say anything about gait?

### AMHERST

It’s there, but subtle. Think about the words “grace,” “symmetry,” “speed,” “endurance,” and “strength.” All these imply



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the very best athleticism—Salukis should have an easy gait that single-tracks, with no wasted movement.

SMITH  
Wasted movement?

AMHERST  
(gesturing with arms and hands)  
Elbowing, crabbing, overreaching, prancing, pounding—any action that detracts from smooth forward movement is wasted energy. Exactly what you don't want in a hunting sighthound.

SMITH  
Okay, so the standard's note about grace, symmetry, and strength pretty much sums up Saluki gait.  
(pause)  
But tell me again why all the breed's colors aren't in the standard?

AMHERST  
You know the old saying, “No color is a bad color if the dog can hunt”?

SMITH  
(shakes his head)

AMHERST  
Well, color is immaterial to hunting ability. Completely irrelevant. However, the standard's authors were listing what they were seeing at the time of breed recognition. All combinations of colors and markings were good to go. Still are, too—including the color variations not yet seen in 1927.

SMITH  
So, you've updated your standard since then, right?

AMHERST  
Nope. Not one jot. It's always covered everything it needed to. It's served Salukis well for 98 years. In fact, it's the oldest unchanged standard in the AKC Hound Group. The S.C.O.A. is quite proud of that.

SMITH  
(tentatively)  
I think I'm beginning to understand why the Saluki standard is so “broad” ...

AMHERST  
(encouragingly)  
Go on.

SMITH  
(gaining confidence)  
Well, during the seminar, I noted Salukis were bred to hunt gazelle, hare, low-flying desert birds, and even wild asses. So, given the breed's purpose to hunt different game over such a huge geographic area, any descriptive standard would have to be expansive.

AMHERST  
Bingo! You've got it!

SMITH  
It's quite simple, once you really think about it!

AMHERST:  
(shakes his hand)  
Congratulations! Now you understand why there is no one correct Saluki type.

THE END

CURTAIN  
(thunderous applause from the audience)

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—Brian Patrick Duggan,  
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### Scottish Deerhounds

#### SIZE—TOO BIG, OR TOO SMALL?

There has been much discussion in the community over time about the height of Deerhounds, so it seemed fitting to address this. During our over 50 years in the breed, we have listened to opinions advocating as ideal either large size or small size. We thought the best thing would be to look at what our standard asks for.

Our standard says:

*“Height of Dogs—From 30 to 32 inches, or even more if there be symmetry without coarseness, which is rare.*

*“Height of Bitches—From 28 inches upwards. There is no objection to a bitch being large, unless too coarse, as even at her greatest height she does not approach that of the dog, and therefore could not be too big for work as overbig dogs are.”*

What we have is a four-inch stated acceptable size range, with an upward extension for dogs, in rare instances. This makes a considerably varied but totally acceptable range, especially if a judge in the show ring is presented with this variation in a single class. This can happen in both sexes, since it is stated that there is no objection to a bitch being large, unless too coarse, and dogs can be from 30 inches upwards, as long as there is symmetry without coarseness.

This makes it difficult for judges in the show ring, because they must remember that even if they have four bitches in the ring, three of whom are 32 inches (see the standard, which says there is no objection to a bitch being large) and one which is 28 inches (again within the standard), that judge is charged with remembering that there should be no discrimination based on size. Dog classes are the same, with acceptable entries

being from 30 inches upwards.

Now, the trend in this country has been that larger dogs and bitches are being shown, and it is less common for smaller ones to be entered. It has become rare that a 28-inch bitch is seen, and it has been increasingly more common for dogs over 32 inches to be entered. Given this, it has seemed that judges have favored Deerhounds in the larger size ranges, as that's what is commonly entered, even though our standard accepts all sizes without discrimination.

As breeders, it has seemed to affect us, too, as we often hear that a small puppy just won't be big enough on maturity to compete in the show ring. We're saddened to hear this, as we remember from years ago a lovely bitch, Ch. Shanid's Silver Rose, who was a Best in Show winner—she was measured at 28 inches! Would/could this happen today, or would she have been relegated to the “not

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Rhodesian Ridgebacks,  
May 2008

new handler that their show outfits should allow them to comfortably walk, run, and bend over to stack their dog. Hemlines of skirts and dresses should not rise to much above the knee. Jackets with capacious and easy-to-access pockets for bait are a plus! Women should choose dresses and skirts that are fitted or A-line, as billowing fabric can interfere with the dog's legs and impair movement. Female exhibitors also have the option of wearing slacks in the ring. Jeans are considered too casual.

Ridgeback exhibitors love thematic dress! There are more African animal patterns in our show rings than there are at the Bronx and San Diego zoos combined. Ideally, the color or pattern worn by the handler should not be so loud as to distract from adjudication of the dog. In addition, let your peeps know that they should save the sequins and satin for evening events like Top 25 at the national specialty or events with evening group judging.

Make sure the newbie has secure shoes suitable for running, that are flat or have a small stacked heel. You never know about the weather, so be sure to remind them to pack their car with rain gear.

Spending just a few minutes to explain wardrobe to the exhibitor can help avoid issues that might undermine their confidence and negatively impact their first experience. —D.S.

**Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States**



## Salukis

### SALUKI COAT VS. STEEL: OVERZEALOUS GROOMING

Nowhere in the AKC Saluki standard is there any language about using scissors or clippers on the coat, grooming and plucking, or that the coat should look a specific way (nor do these appear in any international Saluki standard). Neither should a conformation judge be factoring in a haircut when making placements on our ancient hunting breed. If the coat color and presence or absence of feathering is correctly *immaterial to the Saluki's purpose*, so is hair length on the body. None of these have anything to do with the hound's ability to run fast enough and smart enough to catch speeding gazelles and hares.

I started thinking about this issue after once standing very close to a top-winning Saluki who, like a show Poodle, had been obviously, heavily clipped, scissored, whiskers shorn, and razored to an extreme. So very

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A Saluki's coat has no effect on their ability to pursue game. This rare photograph shows three hounds leaping hurdles at the Saluki Racing Club's first competition, Wembley Stadium, London, March 22, 1928. (Photo courtesy author's collection)

disappointing. And folks, a good judge can tell when hair has been trimmed!

Unlike coat-centric breeds, you cannot reshape a Saluki's form with clippers; you can only take hair away from what is naturally there. So why do people remove Saluki coat hair? Possibly because they feel that a little scissor work helps their dog match their mental picture of the standard. Or,

ratcheting up that thinking several notches, feeling sure the dog can't win unless it's been "improved" by hyper-grooming or pressing a naturally gaiting Saluki into TRAD (tremendous reach and drive).

There are, however, a few inconsequential trims that are both pragmatic and acceptable.

- On a veteran, snipping shaggy pad hair to give

better footing on smooth floors.

- Shortening overlong hair on a penis sheath for hygiene.
- Reducing elbow fluff with thinning scissors to avoid the impression of elbowing—assuming your dog doesn't do it in the first place.
- Thinning fuzzy (but cute) topknots on puppies and veterans with a pumice stone.

In my years with Salukis, both showing and judging, I've seen the following two "improved" grooming looks in the ring:

"Shaved for surgery," where the flank flap is clipped into a clean arc, the belly shaved and oiled to make it look darker. This sleight of hand tries to make the carefully trimmed tuck-up flap appear to be the actual underline, with the belly receding from view, but it won't fool any judge worth their salt. This is egregiously different from trimming stray hairs. (And there is *no* mention of tuck-up or



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underline in the Saluki standard.)

“Nature got it wrong,” where a Saluki’s natural coat and whiskers are believed to be inadequate to win, therefore every hair and whisker must be “*improved*” by a human with steel blades and a grooming table. This zealous barbering is easy to see and feel.

Which gets back to that extremely barbered Saluki who reminded me of the Poodle standard, where nearly one-third of that text is devoted to coat clipping and trimming; no fewer than 29 words refer to the work of clippers and scissors. There is *none* of that in our standard.

Our breed is meant to be shown in the same condition as they hunt in the field—*au naturel*—which includes intact whiskers, dewclaws,\* and “ear-lashes” on smooths.

Salukis, with very few exceptions, are not show Poodles.

(\*For the excellent reasons to *not* remove dewclaws,

see my Saluki breed column in the *August 2017 AKC GAZETTE*.)

—Brian Patrick Duggan,  
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Saluki Club of America

## Scottish Deerhounds

### RAISING A DEERHOUND PUPPY

As breeders we receive questions from the people who have our puppies about the best things to do with and for their puppy so that they grow into their potential, a large part of which centers on their relationship with their human family.

But first, we start with nutrition for a growing puppy who will eventually be bigger than most other breeds. Every conscientious breeder will have recommendations for feeding puppies, and their advice is well worth heeding because they will hopefully have done research and have successfully raised their own puppies.

There are many paths to feeding well, and breeders

have varied approaches to feeding. You will have to see how your breeder’s protocol will fit with your life and make adjustments accordingly. Pay special attention to the brands of food they may recommend, and do ask questions about brands you may have looked at.

Of course, raising them to be strong and healthy adults through exercise is also key to helping them develop their potential. We have a large, powerful breed—developing their bodies well requires attention to their growing needs. A Deerhound puppy will do best when they exercise as much as possible without overtaxing their bodies. How do we know how much is enough but not too much? Some new owners have safely fenced acreage and a companion dog for the puppy to play with until they voluntarily stop—that may be the optimum solution. Many new owners, however, have small yards, and their puppy may be their only non-human